

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 EB-04 MC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

AID-05 IGA-01 INR-05 RSC-01 /026 W

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R 071247Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE 011

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9347

SECDEF FOR ASD/DSAA (ISA)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE POSTPONES PURCHASE OF C-130'S

1. SUMMARY: GOZ NOV 4 UNEXPECTEDLY CANCELLED SIGNING CEREMONY OF CONTRACT WITH LOCKHEED FOR PURCHASE SIX ADDITIONAL C-130'S. DEFENSE DEPT STATES MOBUTU WILL AUTHORIZE PURCHASE IN NEAR FUTURE OF THREE AIRCRAFT. END SUMMARY

2. AS LATE AS NOV 1, ALL SIGNS POINTED TO CLEAR SAILING FOR SIGNATURE OF CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE SIX ADDITIONAL C-130'S AT A COST OF \$45.5 MILLION. DURING INITIAL NEGOTIATIONS, LOCKHEED PROPOSED PAYMENT \$600 THOUSAND BINDER ON SIGNATURE TO BE DEDUCTED FROM \$4.5 MILLION DOWNPAYMENT DUE IN SIXTY DAYS. ZAIRIAN NEGOTIATORS FROM DEPT OF DEFENSE PROPOSED PAYMENT ENTIRE \$4.5 MILLION ON SIGNATURE WHICH WOULD THEN GIVE GOZ UNTIL AUG 1975 TO ARRANGE FINANCING.

3. CONTRACT WAS SO NEGOTIATED, MOBUTU'S AUTHORIZATION OBTAINED, TOGETHER WITH GREEN LIGHT FROM DEPT OF FINANCE. WHEN HERETOFORE PRO FORMA CLEARANCE OF CENTRAL BANK SOUTH, GOVERNOR SAMBWA REFUSED ON GROUNDS TEMPORARY FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE.

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4. LOCKHEED NEGOTIATOR HAS NOW REDONE CONTRACT FOR THREE

AIRCRAFT REQUIRING DOWNPAYMENT OF ONLY \$2.2 MILLION WITH PROVISION THIS COULD BE DELAYED UNTIL JAN 15, 1975. DEPT OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS HAVE STATED INTEREST IN SIGNING CONTRACT IN NEAR FUTURE AS SOON AS BANK OF ZAIRE CLEARANCE CAN BE OBTAINED.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS, SOME OF WHICH REPORTED IN KINSHASA'S A-188, OCT 31, 1974, THAT GOZ EXPERIENCING TEMPORARY FOREIGN EXCHANGE PINCH. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOZ AT HIGHEST LEVELS REMAINS INTERESTED IN PURCHASE ADDITIONAL C-130'S.
NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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